



# USDA Forest Service National Forests in Alabama Talladega National Forest **Public Notice**

## **Prescribed Burn**

(Heflin, AL) February 8, 2024---- USDA Forest Service federal fire management specialists are planning to conduct a prescribed burn (controlled burn) on approximately 700 acres today, 4 miles north of Heflin in the Big Oak area located on the Talladega National Forest – Shoal Creek Ranger District.

Prescribed burns are low-intensity, prescribed fires ignited by trained personnel to remove excess fuels, such as vegetation and dead wood, that would enable wildfires to burn hotter and longer.

During today's prescribed burn, Forest Service Roads 548 and 542 form part of the burn boundary and should be traveled with caution. The public may notice Forest Service fire crews and equipment. Smoke may also be visible on Forest Service roads 500, 553 and 543 north of the burn area. The wind is expected to be out of the south and will carry the smoke to the north. As the temperatures cool later today, the smoke may begin to settle down the Shoal Creek drainage.

Some settling may also occur around the general area of the burn. If encountering smoke on roadways, please slow down, turn on your low-beam headlights and use caution when encountering prescribed burning operations and smoke.

Prescribed fire plays an important role in the health of forest ecosystems. Applying prescribed fire on the land at the right place, at the right time, under the right conditions benefits the land and the surrounding communities.

*For additional information, contact the Shoal Creek Ranger District at (256) 362-2909. Or visit [www.fs.usda.gov/alabama](http://www.fs.usda.gov/alabama)*